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How to Build a Better Bowl

Bowls are fast becoming a popular way to enjoy nutritious and delicious meals in no time! What does a bowl-type meal look like? Think salad, only more nutritious and versatile. The sky's the limit to the number of meals you can create using the bowl formula I've outlined on the following pages.

A nutritious bowl is one with plant-based, nutrient-rich foods as the base. These include green leafy vegetables, omega-3 fats, plant-based proteins, whole grains, and functional foods like herbs and spices. If these foods sound familiar to you, it's because they are the building blocks of the Fx Pillars created by our team of nutrition experts to help you follow this advice from Hippocrates: Let food be thy medicine, and medicine be thy food.

Have fun with this! Choose something from each of the categories and don't be afraid to mix it up to avoid boredom.

Greens

PILLAR 1: Eat your greens, as many as you can every day

Layer the bottom of your bowl with one or more of these alkalizing GREENS. Try them fresh, lightly steamed, or sautéed.

- Arugula
- Dandelion greens
- Kale
- Mustard greens
- Romaine
- Spinach
- Spring mix
- Watercress

Rainbow Vegetables

PILLAR 2: Eat the rainbow, at least one fruit and two vegetables every day

Now it's time to pile on one or more RAINBOW VEGETABLES! If you're doing it the Fx way, this should be your biggest portion. Roasted, raw, stir-fried, or air-fried, these vegetables will fill your body with loads of important vitamins, minerals, antioxidants, and fiber.

- Asparagus
- Beets
- Broccoli
- Brussels sprouts
- Cauliflower
- Cabbage (Try red cabbage for a burst of color!)
- Carrots
- Eggplant
- · Garlic, onions, or leeks
- Peppers
- Squash
- Sweet potatoes
- Tomatoes

Protein

PILLAR 4: Pick your protein: choose plants over fish over fowl over beef

Next, add a few ounces of plant or animal-based PROTEIN to help balance blood sugar and keep you satisfied for hours.

Plant-Based Proteins

- Beans
- Edamame
- Falafel (Save time with Fedora Famous Falafel Dough in the Frozen Department or make your own from scratch!)
- Lentils (A couple of spoonfuls will do)
- Quinoa
- Nuts or seeds (Try a sprinkle of walnuts, almonds, hemp seeds, chia seeds, ground flax seeds, or pumpkin seeds for extra omega-3 fats!)
- Actual Veggies or NoBull plant-based burgers
- Tempeh
- Tofu

Animal-Based Proteins

- Omega-3 Rich Seafood* (Mackerel, salmon, tuna (fresh or Wild Planet canned).
 - Try mixing canned seafood with a spoonful of Primal Kitchen avocado oil mayonnaise!)
- Pasture-Raised Chicken (Pasturebird)
- Pasture-Raised Egg (Heinen's organic pasture-raised eggs)
- Grass-Fed Beef* (Heinen's brand or PRE beef)

*These proteins double as an omega-3 fat and help you meet Pillar 3: Dose with omega-3 fats every day.

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Whole Grains

PILLAR 5: Choose whole grains, preferably sprouted

If you're looking for a little extra fiber and b-vitamins, a spoonful or two of one of these Fx-approved whole grains make a nice addition to an already well-balanced bowl.

- Barley
- Bulgur
- Brown rice
- Farro
- · Heinen's organic whole wheat pasta

For those watching their blood sugar, substitute any of these for the above grains:

- Explore Cuisine bean pasta (Pasta Aisle): A high protein and fiber noodle that doubles as a plant-based protein!
- Heinen's riced cauliflower or broccoli (Frozen Department)
- Zucchini or squash noodles (Produce Department)

Fun, Flavorful, and Functional Toppings

This is my favorite step in the bowlbuilding process because it's like a final opportunity to boost the nutrient density of your bowl before indulging. Make your creation count with a sprinkle or dash of one or more these toppings.

Rainbow Fruit

PILLAR 2: Eat the rainbow, at least one fruit and two vegetables every day

- Chopped apples
- Avocado slices
- Berries: fresh blackberries blueberries, raspberries, or strawberries
- Fresh fias
- Goji berries
- Chopped pears

Functional Foods

PILLAR 6: Remember functional foods: fresh herbs and fermented foods

- Broccoli sprouts or sprouted legume mix (Produce Department)
- Fresh or dried herbs and spices (Basil, parsley, cilantro, etc.)
- Fermented vegetables (Cleveland Kitchen sauerkraut or Wake Robin fermented pickles, carrots, or beets)
- Mushrooms (Sautéed Phillips Mushroom Farms Organic Gourmet Blend Mushrooms)
- Bragg nutritional yeast
- SeaSnax (Roasted seaweed that's been described as "strangely addicting.")

Additional Crunchy Toppings

- Brad's kale chips
- Biena crunchy chickpeas
- Crushed tortilla chips (Xochitl or Siete)
- Go Raw sprouted pumpkin or sunflower seeds

Sauce

Sauces and dressings are like the whipped cream and cherry on top of a sundae, only better. They add moisture, flavor, and a little extra pizazz to your newly created masterpiece. Here are some of my favorite Fx-approved sauces, dressings, and dips to top off your bowl.

- Bragg ginger and sesame dressing
- Heinen's extra virgin olive oil
- Heinen's balsamic vinegar (in the tap)
- Hummus Goodness hummus
- Hot sauce
- Homemade pesto sauce

Key Takeaway

Deciding what to make for dinner can be frustrating, especially when you aren't in the habit of meal planning. The great thing about bowl-style meals is they can be created with ingredients you have on hand in your kitchen. So even if you don't meal plan, you can still enjoy a different nutritious and delicious meal practically every day of the week. The possibilities truly are endless!